V. MILITARY HISTORY

CONTENTS

FOLDER V

Military History - 1659-1959
by
William Chmura

Our story of armed forces begins in the summer of 1659 with a survey party of five. Instructed to lay out a plantation somewhere north of Holyoke on the east side of the Connecticut River, this party brought along flint-locks for self protection. Picture this intrepid group venturing into an area sparsely inhabited by the Norwottock Indians. True, Northampton had been settled five years earlier across the Connecticut River on the west. There was nothing but frontier on the north and east with little protection for them in the south because of distance. Yet fortunately, the Norwottocks manifested no hostility. When misunderstanding and disputes did arise magnanimous and noble behavior shown by both sides on many occasions had some effect. Since recorded history, reason and persuasion hold sway to a point; then force becomes the arbiter. This beautiful valley so full of promise was not to be exempt from strife, struggle, and bloodshed.

The first settlers of Northampton and Hadley lived in peace with the Indians until King Philip's War in 1675. Indians frequently came to the village to sell or trade furs and venison. The women made and sold baskets, mats, and other things. During the summer of 1669 the Mohawks, from the vicinity of Albany, made an incursion, killing a number of hogs and some cattle.

Indian Wars

The first and most notable Indian war was begun by Philip, the Wampanoag chief. His headquarters were at Mount Hope, which is now within the town of Bristol, R.I. On June 24, 1675, he attacked the town of Swansea. Nine persons were killed, houses and barns burned, and much damage was done to crops and stock. Massachusetts colonies rose to arms, and soon Philip and his followers disappeared among the Quabaugs (Brookfield) in the Nipmuck (central Massachusetts) country.

The hostiles who operated in old Hampshire County were nearly all Nipmucks, joined later by the Pocumtucks (Deerfield) and other river tribes. They first attacked Brookfield, but nearly all the people concentrated in a strong house which they bravely defended for three days when they were relieved by Major Simeon Willard. Philip's Indians soon after gathered at Paquayag (now Athol) with the Indians in the valley from the different settlements. Those in this vicinity had built a fort on the bluff above the Connecticut River within the present bounds of Hatfield, across from the Honey Pot Meadows, and the people being suspicious of them, the military authorities by persuasion, took possession of their arms. Subsequently the Indians, professing great loyalty to the settlers and expressing a strong desire to go out against

Indian Wars

The first and most notable Indian war was begun by Philip, the Wampanoag chief. The hostilities were at Mount Hope, which is now within the town of Bristol, R.I. On June 7th, 1675, he attacked the town of Swansea. Nine persons were killed, houses and barns burned, and much damage was done to crops and stock. Massachusetts colonies rose to arms, and soon Philip and his followers disappeared among the Nashaway (Westfield) in the Pioneer (central Massachusetts) country.

The Sachem who operated in old Hampshire County were nearly all Mohegans, joined later by the Pocumtucks (Deerfield) and other River Indians. They first attacked Deerfield, but nearly all the people escaped in a strong house which they already fortified. Our River Indians then were relieved by Major Simon Willard. Philip's Indians soon after gathered at Peskeomskut (now Athol) with the Indians in the valley from the different settlements. There in this vicinity had built a fort on the bluff above the Connecticut River within the present bounds of Gerrish, across from the Sandy Pit Ferry, and the people being suspicious of them, the military authorities by persuasion, took possession of their arms. Consequently the Indians, professing great loyalty to the settlers and expressing a strong desire to go out against

the enemy, had their arms restored to them. A party of them accompanied some Connecticut troops on a scouting expedition, but their conduct was such that they were suspected of treachery, and Captains Beers and Lothrop in command at Hadley, upon the expressed desire of the people, decided again to disarm the Indians. Surrounding the fort at midnight, they discovered that the savages had killed an old sachem who would not join them, and had fled.

Immediate pursuit was made by the excited soldiers, and in a swamp near the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain they, without warning, received the fire of forty or fifty Indians, and during the three hours of sharp fighting which ensued, the English lost nine men, one of whom - Azariah Dickinson - was from Hadley. A squaw captured a few days after reported that twenty-six Indians were slain.

On the second of September the Indians at Squaukeag (Northfield) waylaid a party who ventured out of the fort, and eight men were killed. Not knowing of this attack, Captain Beers with thirty-six men left Hadley with carts to evacuate the inhabitants of Squaukeag. On the second day he was ambushed, lost his life, and the lives of twenty of his men, among whom were William Markham and Joseph Dickinson of Hadley. Several of those who escaped reached Hadley that same night.

Whether or not the Indians made an attack upon Hadley and were repulsed when a mysterious figure appeared to lead the townspeople to rout the savages on September 1, 1675, may be more legend than

fact, has been in dispute. We pass on to the next disaster suffered by the English - the massacre of Lothrop and "the Flower of Essex", at Muddy (now Bloody) Brook. Lothrop had been sent to Deerfield to guard the teams while they drew a large quantity of harvested wheat. Lacking due caution, his command ran into an ambush of several hundred Indians at the crossing of the brook, with the result that he and about sixty of his men were killed and were later buried in one grave. While Deerfield suffered the loss of seventeen citizens in this bloody affair, Hadley escaped with the loss of Francis Barnard, who was acting as teamster.

Hadley was the military headquarters for Hampshire County, with Major Pynchon in command. The Springfield Indians had concentrated at their fort on Long Hill, toward Long Meadow, claiming to be friendly to the English. The Connecticut Council advised Pynchon not to disarm them, but to secure hostages for their good behavior; and such action was taken, the hostages being sent to Hartford. Pynchon, learning at Hadley that a body of Indians were in the vicinity of Hadley mill, drew off men from the Springfield garrison intending to go out against them the following day. The same day, Tonto, a Windsor Indian, disclosed a plot concocted by the Indians to burn Springfield the next day. The alarm reached Pynchon at Hadley after midnight, and before his men could reach Springfield the hellish work of destruction had been accomplished by the Springfield Indians and many Nipmucks whom they had secretly admitted to their fort. Happily the loss of life was comparatively small, three persons being killed and two mortally wounded, but the property loss was a terrible blow to

the infant settlement. The campaign continued with an attack on Hatfield by seven or eight hundred Indians, but the place was well prepared for defence, and the enemy was repulsed. A few days later, an unsuccessful raid was made upon Northampton. Then the Indians retired to a place just above Squaukeag, where they wintered.

About April 1st, 1676, the Indians attacked some laborers near Hockanum, and killed Deacon Richard Goodman and two soldiers. They took Thomas Reed a prisoner to the camp at Squaukeag. When the fishing season arrived, after planting corn at Northfield, they broke camp and moved down the river to Peskeompscut (now Turners Falls) and planted corn at Deerfield. The prisoner, Reed, made his escape and coming into Hadley told of the unguarded position of the enemy engaged in fishing at the Falls. Stirred up by the activity of Rev. John Russell, the Hadley minister, the military authorities decided "to go out against them tomorrow night so as to be with them, the Lord assisting, before the break of day."

The successful attack, ended in a disastrous retreat of the victors, during which Captain Turner lost his life. Out of one hundred and sixty men in the expedition, thirty-seven were killed and two mortally wounded. Under the able management of Captain Samuel Holyoke, the survivors reached safety at Hadley, having been pursued by the savages for many miles. Rev. Hope Atherton, minister of Hatfield, who acted as chaplain of the expedition, wandered without food for nearly four days before he found himself in Hadley, not knowing how he crossed the Connecticut River. The terrible experiences of Jonathan Wells, a youth of sixteen years from Hadley, who

Military History (cont.)

by his bravery that day gained the name of "the Boy Hero", reads like a story from Cooper's novels. ~~[illegible]~~ It was four years and two months before he could walk. Hadley sent twenty-five men in this expedition, of whom eight were killed and Falls severdy wounded.

On the 20th of May, Hatfield was again attacked; twelve houses and barns were burned and many livestock and horses were killed or driven away. Twenty-five brave Hadley men crossed the river to the aid of their neighbors. The Indians wounded two of them before they left the boat, but the men landed in the face of their attack, killed five or six of the enemy by their first volley. ~~and~~ The Indians retreated toward the fort. In this fight five men were killed and three were wounded. Hadley lost a brave young man in the person of Jobanna, son of Lieutenant Samuel Smith. John Stow of Hadley was severaly wounded. Both of these young men had escaped in the Falls fight, a few days before.

On the 8th of June, 1676, two hundred and fifty mounted troops and two hundred friendly Indians from Connecticut paraded Hadley streets with silken banners, giving the river towns great sense of security. Unaware of the presence of this large body of soldiers, the Indians made an attack on Hadley with several hundred warriors. They were soon compelled to disperse, not, however, until they had killed three soldiers who had ventured from the fort without arms.

Military History (cont.)

After Philip was slain near Mount Hope, August 12th, the river Indians fled toward the Hudson, many being killed in their flight. The mill at North Hadley, which had been garrisoned during the war, was burned by straggling Indians in 1677.

From 1688 to 1698, King William's War raged. Castreen attacked Deerfield, and Indians were lurking around all the river towns, making constant "watch and ward" necessary. Richard Church of Hadley was murdered while hunting in the woods. Four New York Indians were arrested and after a jury trial two were convicted and shot. Deerfield, being the frontier town, suffered much more than the other river settlements.

Next came Queen Anne's War, lasting from 1702 to 1713. The destruction of Deerfield, February 29th, 1704, terrorized all the valley settlers, as well as the government at Boston. In the meadow fight which followed, fourteen Hadley men were engaged and Sergeant Robert Boltwood, his son Samuel, Jonathan Ingham, and Nathaniel Warner, Jr., were killed and ten were wounded. Thomas Selden, a Hadley man in the garrison, was also killed, and Joseph Eastman was among the captives taken to Canada.

Father Rasle's War followed in 1722 and continued for four years. The French Fort Dummer (near Brattleboro) was built in 1724 for the protection of the river towns. Captain Joseph Kellogg, a native of Hadley, was in command of Northfield.

The fifth Indian War lasted from 1744 to 1748. Col. John Stoddard of Northampton was in command of the northern militia at the beginning, with Eleazer Porter of Hadley second in command. The line of forts

Military History (cont.)

from Fort Dummer along the northern frontier to Fort Massachusetts on the Hoosac River was established. ~~Forts were built, and~~ Numbers of houses were palisaded in nearly every settlement. Many men were drawn off by the expedition for the siege and capture of Louisburg. Captain Seth Pomeroy of Northampton had a command there in which were three Hadley men.

Samuel Goodman of Hadley and Joseph Scott with his wife and son from Hatfield were part of the heroic band under the command of Sergeant John Hawks of Deerfield at Fort Massachusetts when that fort was attacked by a force of French and Indians under General de Veaudreuil August 19, 1746. There were thirty persons in the fort. Of this number five were children, three were wives of soldiers, one was a chaplain. Dysentery had sickened all but twelve of the twenty soldiers. After 36 hours of constant attack one of the twelve soldiers was killed, two injured, leaving nine men to withstand the assault of four hundred and fifty French and three hundred Indians. After capitulation eleven of the group were kept as French prisoners, and the eighteen turned over to the Indians became nineteen when a daughter was born on the second day of the march to Canada. Although the captives were kindly treated on the march, fifteen of the thirty prisoners died in the Quebec prison - nine of the soldiers, all three mothers, two boys and the new baby girl. Samuel Goodman was one of the soldiers who died there.

Some English who had been prisoners on two French ships brought the terrible fever which spread death rapidly. Release was arranged for

the others from Fort Massachusetts the following summer.

The sixth and last Indian war commenced in 1754 and continued until 1763. Col. Ephraim Williams (the founder of Williams College) raised a regiment in the valley towns for service in this war. Captain Moses Porter of Hadley (a grandfather of Bishop Huntington) commanded a company in this regiment. On the "bloody morning scout", September 8, 1755, Col. Williams, Captain Porter, Henry Bartlett of Hadley, and forty-eight others were slain near Lake George, and twenty-four were wounded. During this war Hadley furnished forty-eight soldiers; South Hadley, fifty-four; Amherst, forty-two; and Granby, twenty-three.

On the alarm caused by the massacre of the surrendered garrison at Fort William Henry, Captain Moses Marsh of the Hadley militia ~~marched~~ with thirty-eight men marched as far as the Hudson River, where they were turned back. Captain Samuel Smith of South Hadley also marched with fifty-four men of his company.

Eighty years of almost constant fighting, or in preparation for defence against the French and Indians, had developed a race of men skilled in warfare and the use of arms, ~~which~~ a fact which had immense influence in the greater struggle which was fast approaching with the mother country.

Hadley in the Indian Wars always performed her duties with credit and renown, and that reputation she has since nobly ~~sustained~~ maintained.

Military History (cont.)

Revolutionary War

The Hadley Militia had 108 members in 1775. Captain Elisha Porter, 1st Lieutenant Oliver Smith, 2nd Lieutenant Eliakim Smith, and Ensign Caleb Lyman were the officers. What a exciting sight ~~and excitement~~ this company presented during exercises! The shrill trumpet, the proud banners with staff and tassel, the prancing steeds, the gay appearance and quick motions of the men must have stirred young and old alike.

In many towns, just before the Revolution, a liberty pole was set up in a public place. Hadley erected one in August, 1774, that was 130 feet high.

The people of Hadley, ~~so~~ sensitive concerning their rights and jealous of their liberties, were not slow to act in any given emergency. The phrases of their patriotic resolves seem to have anticipated those of the "Immortal Declaration". The first important action of the town concerning the existing state of affairs is embodied in the following resolutions, passed Jan. 3, 1774, at a meeting held at the schoolhouse:

"Resolved, That this town will use all such measures as shall appear to them consistent with their duty in order to obtain a redress of the grievances we feel, and to prevent, if possible, any further violations of our natural and constitutional rights, that our invaluable liberties, civil and religious, may be enjoyed by us, and transmitted to posterity inviolate:

Military History,(Cont.)

always hoping, in the goodness of Divine Providence, that the machinations of designing persons to effect a change in our happy constitution will be rendered abortive from time to time to the latest generations."

"Resolved, That a standing committee of correspondence be appointed, consisting of five inhabitants of this town, to keep up and maintain a correspondence with the committees of correspondence in other towns within this province respecting this important concern."

Dr. Giles Crouch Kellogg, Phineas Lyman, Oliver Smith, Josiah Peirce, and Jonathan Warner were made a committee of correspondence, to which afterward were added Ebenezer Marsh, Capt. Moses Marsh, John Cooke, Benjamin Colt, Eliakim Smith, Edmund Hubbard, Warham Smith, and Noah Cooke.

Oct. 3, 1774, Josiah Peirce was chosen delegate to the Provincial Congress at Concord "to concert such measures as may be adopted and executed by the whole people in this time of distress and danger."

At the same meeting it was "voted, that there shall be a powder-house built for the use of the town; to be made of brick, plastered within and without, round in compass, equal to eight feet square; to be erected in the middle lane leading into the Great Meadows." (now Russell St.) Four half-barrels of powder were ordered then, and two more in the following January

The selectmen were "directed" to make inquiry whether the great

Military History (cont.)

gun which did formerly belong to this town is the property of the town now", and four shillings per hundred weight were appropriated to "bring the cannon from Williamstown to Hadley."

The following-named persons were made a committee of inspection: John Eastman, Oliver Smith, John Cooke, Charles Phelps, Noah Cooke, Caleb Lyman, Hezekiah Hubbard.

After the battle of Lexington, 46 persons in Hadley responded to the call for men and exchanged the peaceful pursuits of farming for war at Bunker Hill and military discipline under Washington. Forty-two men served from one to five months in and around Boston.

A townsman, Col. Elisha Porter, was in charge of a Canadian expedition; and in 1777, when Burgoyne invaded the Hudson valley, Hadley men went with those from other Hampshire towns to oppose him. On their way they sometimes lodged at night in barns, suffering hardships even before they reached the Hudson. After Burgoyne surrendered, he and a portion of the other captives were marched to Boston by way of Hadley where the troops camped for one night in the area west of West Street. Col. Porter had Gen. Burgoyne as a guest in his home, and the General's staff pitched their tents in the Porter yard. The next morning, Burgoyne, in acknowledgment of his host's courtesy, presented him with his dress sword.

David Montague of Hadley was one of the six men who rowed Benedict Arnold to the British vessel on the Hudson at the time he was plotting to surrender to West Point; and when the nature of Arnold's errand was discovered, Montague cursed the traitor to his

Military History (cont.)

face. Montague died in the service at West Point.

During the first years of the war there was no standing army, only the militia of the individual states enlisted for periods of six months, eight months, or one year at the most. In 1777, at the insistance of Gen. Washington, provisions were made for a Continental Army of men enlisted for not less than one year and not more than three years. In January of that year the General Court of Massachusetts passed a resolution for raising the Continental Troops, by draft if necessary, and the quota of one seventh of all male inhabitants over 16 years of age was assigned to the towns.

Surrender of Gen. Burgoyne's forces at Saratoga on Oct. 17, 1777, to Gen. Gates frustrated the attempt to cut New England from the rest of the Colonies. The theatre of war moved southward and for the most part the towns of the valley lacked the incentive which proximity of the enemy engenders.

Jan. 30, 1776, a committee was appointed to provide for the manufacture of "Salt Peter", and May 30th the same year gave birth to the following:

"Voted, if the American Congress should, for the safety of the United Colonies, declare them independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, we, the inhabitants of said Hadley, will engage, with our lives and Fortunes, to support them in the measure."

Assured that such decisive action on the part of Congress would precipitate the conflict, the sturdy inhabitants, on the 17th of June,

Military History (cont.)

voted for more gunpowder.

Numerous votes indicate generous contributions of men and means. The following are examples: May 13, 1778, "voted, that the six men now required of this town, and those who have and those who shall engage for the Continental Army, be allowed £40 (about $200). June 15, "voted, that the militiamen who marched upon the alarms in July, August, and September, 1777, shall have credit at the rate of three months for one." July 10, it was voted to purchase five horses for the army. Desire for liberty and faith in their cause was so strong that burdensome taxes, contributions for the poor (Boston and Cambridge), collections of blankets and clothes for the forces at the siege of Boston were accepted without complaint. As early as then the comment was heard that, "this is a war not for soldiers only, but of the whole people."

Value of paper money kept depreciating from the first issue. In Dec. 1780, beef was worth about four dollars a pound, rye at fifty dollars per bushel. One dollar in silver was equal to one hundred dollars. April, 1781, one dollar in silver was equal to two hundred. It was in these days that the soldiers often paid fifty dollars for a meal, or a mug of beer. The old saying, "it isn't worth a Continental" was substantially true.

The Old Hadley Chapter D. A. R. has marked the graves of thirty-four soldiers in the old Hadley cemetery, five in North

Military History (cont.)

Hadley cemetery, one in Russellville, five in Hockanum, and one, Dan West, in Ashfield, Mass. They have a complete list of the soldiers buried, together with an alphabetical list of all Revolutionary War soldiers with a brief statement of their services.

In all, Hadley contributed 183 soldiers to the patriot ranks at a time when its inhabitants numbered only 681 in a census of 1776. Indeed, words were not empty when on May 30, 1776, the town voted to support the American Congress, "with our lives and fortunes in this measure."

Military History (cont.)

Shays' Rebellion

Debts and burdensome taxes, a depreciated currency, exorbitant legal fees, and conservative courts which enforced the letter of the law in favor of creditors, were the causes of a pervasive discontent among the common people. Some farmers, forced to sell their livestock to satisfy creditors, were then without means to cultivate their fields. The western part of the state was particularly embittered because of the control of the state government by eastern representatives. Daniel Shays, a 2nd Lieutenant in the battle of Bunker Hill, later a Captain, who had distinguished himself at Stony Point and Saratoga, organized the malcontents. Armed mobs prevented the sitting of several local courts, and on Sept. 1786, Shays with 600 followers broke up a session of the State Supreme Court at Springfield. On Jan. 25, 1787, Shays headed a mob of 2000 men in an attempt to sieze the federal arsenal at Springfield. He was opposed by Gen. William Shepard, head of 1200 Hampshire militiamen, and his forces were repulsed. He withdrew the remnants through South Hadley and Amherst to Pelham.

Col. Elisha Porter, like his grandfather, Samuel, was Sheriff of Hampshire County, hence in charge of the local Bastile in Northampton. His duty was to maintain law and order. The insurgents made this difficult. One of his former captains, Reuben Dickinson of Amherst, led a mob of 300 to demand the release of certain prisoners from jail. The capable sheriff persuaded him in respect to the error of his

Military History (cont.)

business and thereby prevented bloodshed.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, head of the state militia, was directed by the Governor to capture Shays and his lieutenants. This task fell to Gen. Shepard who, on Feb. 3, 1787, had a force in readiness in Hadley. On this day Shays with 600 rebels, sensing an attack, withdrew his rebels from Pelham to Petersham in the early evening. Gen. Shepard, receiving intelligence of this move, ordered his men in pursuit. The march set off at 8:00 P.M. in moderate weather. Toward midnight bitter cold with a strong wind set in. With deep snow on the ground one can easily imagine the difficult and grueling march this must have been. The column, about five miles in length, reached Petersham at 9:00 A.M. the next morning. The surprise was complete. After a short skirmish for a few miles toward Athol, 150 rebels were captured; some escaped to Vermont and New Hampshire; some managed to return home. After this defeat the insurgents disbanded. Fourteen of the leaders were sentenced to death for treason, but were subsequently pardoned and a general amnesty proclaimed. Shays was eventually pardoned and later awarded a pension for his services in the Revolutionary War. He died at Sparta, N.Y., on Sept. 29, 1825, at 78 years of age.

Organized armed opposition to the authority of Massachusetts has not been repeated since 1787. The law prevailed,but the rebellion advertised the importance of providing lawful means to seek redress in cases of hardship.

Military History (cont.)

THE CIVIL WAR

In the war between the states, as ever before, Hadley's response was positive and enthusiastic. The first quota was oversubscribed by three to one. Young, old, single, married, and one lame man offered to enlist. A boy, fourteen years of age, was rejected and "told to go home", ran off to Springfield the following day to enlist. Here again he was turned down and returned to Hadley two days later a very dejected young man.

So general was the impression that the South would be subdued in a matter of weeks that the volunteers were called for nine months service only. One woman, living on West Street, seeing the militia drilling in the evenings with vigor, eagerness, and seriousness predicted that if the boys from the South were "moved by equal spirit" the war would be long, hard and bitter. Suffering the fates of prophets, she was ridiculed "more than was necessary."

Town records, recorded by William S. Shipman, a perennial Town Clerk for forty years, shows the following in bold and legible manner, that on May 5, 1861: "Voted, 1st., That the town raise the sum of three thousand dollars to be used for the following purposes, viz: To purchase uniforms for such volunteers as may enlist in the service of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the United States. Being citizens or residents of Hadley, either native or adopted, to serve in the cause of their country for the term of at least three months; and not more than fifteen hundred dollars to be expended for such uniforms.

"2nd. To pay such citizens as shall enlist, as aforesaid, a sum sufficient to make their pay amount to the sum of twenty-six dollars per month from all sources for the time they are in actual service of their country."

Military History (cont.)

"3rd. To procure a life insurance policy upon the lives of such persons as shall enlist, as aforesaid, and be called into service and shall leave families dependent on them for support, for the sum of five hundred dollars. To be paid over for the benefit of such families in case of death of such persons during such service or if any shall die of disease contracted in such service within the duration of such policy. Said insurance policy to be obtained by the town for a term of six months, to be renewed from time to time as long as they shall continue in the service of the United States."

Entries in town records show that a "bounty" of fifty dollars was paid to all enlistees during the first two years, one hundred dollars during the third and one hundred twenty-five dollars during the last year of the war. Throughout the conflict money was raised and paid for support of the dependents of the soldiers.

It was the responsibility of the Selectmen that all quotas for men be met. Enlistment meetings were held for this purpose. All sorts of appeals and means of persuasion were resorted to. As the war dragged on it was more and more difficult to meet quotas, yet Hadley never failed in this respect. Soldiers returning wounded, unkempt, and emaciated, ~~soldiers~~ with their stories of hardships, did not make this task of recruitment easier, especially during the last two years of the war.

Some insight as to conditions may be gained from comments of a Hadley soldier, of the 52nd Regiment, Mass. Volunteer Infantry, as related to Clifton Johnson: "The authorities wouldn't take a man into

Military History (cont.)

the army unless he had good teeth. Each charge of powder was twisted up in a strong, heavy paper, and you had to tear the end off with your teeth. Pickled pork, commonly known as "salthorse" was a ration item. Big square crackers, as hard as rock, were another reason why you had to have good teeth. If you could thread a needle your eyes were considered good enough. The guns had a terrific "kick". Some of the boys said they were more dangerous than the Rebels. Some of the boys had collar-bones broken this way. When we got to New York, nobody knew what to do with us. It was cold and raining. The Mayor opened the City Hall and let us in; about a thousand men. Later we were taken to a large, empty store. We slept on the bare floor and almost froze to death. The next day big wagons came loaded with Thanksgiving food, all the good things you could think of. Our voyage from New York was awful rough. All of us were seasick. Several died on the first night. Having arrived in Baton Rouge, we drilled there all winter. First fight, about ninety miles west of New Orleans in April. A regiment from Maine was cut up just awfully. Wounded men always beg for water. We helped carry the wounded about half a mile to a shed by the side of a bayou. There was no hollering and yelling, nor much noise of any kind, but it was terrible just the same to see the wounds and the blood and the doctors cutting and sewing. Our rations were mostly hardtack, dried ham, corned beef, beans, salt pork and coffee. The first thing you'd do when you sliced off your ham was to hold it on a stick over a fire to make the maggots jump out. The Government was cheated on a good deal of the hardtack. The contractors would buy all the peas and beans

Military History (cont.)

they could and mix them with wheat. Occasionally in the evening we'd sing and when we sang the old home songs half the fellers would be crying. Disease was worse than the bullets. Got the fever and "shakes" and was sent to the Marine Hospital in New Orleans. Didn't eat for three days. All I wanted to do was sleep and sleep. At last, the end of nine months for which my regiment enlisted. Every week or ten days I'd shake in spells. It followed me up for fifteen years after I got back to Old Town (Hadley). By steamer to Cairo, Illinois; rest of journey by freight cars thru Buffalo to New York, then to Markettown (Northampton). In our rags and lice, we were ashamed to be seen by the well-dressed people. Our regiment had been gone a year lacking fifteen days. You might think I'd be overjoyed to be back but I was so Dum near dead I didn't care. Some of the boys reenlisted and some took up their old work just as if they hadn't been away at all."

General Sherman's famous understatement that "War is hell" is described in detail in such letters as this, preserved by the descendants of the boys who fought in the Civil War.

Hadley furnished two hundred and twelve men to the great Union Army. Some served in eighteen regiments of infantry, some served in five regiments of cavalry. A number of these men were commissioned officers. An honor roll, in the Goodwin Memorial Library, lists two hundred and six names. Twenty-three died in the service, of which two succumbed in the infamous prison at Andersonville, Georgia. Of the 49,485 prisoners held there, about 13,000 died from exposure, disease and insufficient

Military History (cont.)

food.

Seven veterans took part in the quarter millennial celebration in 1909. Parsons Cook, the last survivor, died on Dec. 23, 1931, 98 years of age. He was buried in the Old Hadley cemetery.

The greatest contribution of Hadley to the Civil War was Major General Joseph Hooker. Born on West Street Nov. 13, 1814, he showed an aptitude for the military in his youth. Giles C. Kellogg, encouraged and assisted in securing an appointment for him to the United States Military Academy at West Point, ~~after graduation in~~ Hooker served in the Civil War, was appointed Brigadier-General of Volunteers, becoming Major General in May, 1862. He showed great skill as a commander of troops. He took part in the battles of Williamsburg, second battle of Bull Run, Chantilly, Antietam and Fredericksburg. President Lincoln appointed him, in 1863, to command the Army of the Potomac. His encounter and defeat by Gen. Lee at Chancellorsville caused the resignation of his command. In November of the same year, in command of two army corps, he won the "Battle of the Clouds" on Lookout Mountain. He retired with full rank on Oct. 15, 1868. General Hooker died at Garden City, Long Island, on Oct. 31, 1879.

In commemoration of its former Commander, General Hooker, the Third Army Corps held a reunion in Hadley on May 7, 1895. An address of welcome was given by O. W. Prouty, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Governor Frederic T. Greenhalge welcomed soldiers of the Corps to the State. A large and excellent oil portrait of General Hooker, now located in the Goodwin Memorial Library, was presented to the town by

Military History (cont.)

General Daniel E. Sickles. Dr. Franklin Bonney gave the acceptance address in behalf of the town. Several years later the Corps placed a bronze tablet on a huge stone marking the location of the house in which General Hooker was born. Placed on the north common of West Street, the marker will remind many generations to come of our illustrious townsman who, as a boy, hoed corn in the Great Meadows and later held the position of highest military commander of his country. Hadley may well be proud of his qualities for inspiring trust and his ability to lead his soldiers to success. As an expression of loyalty and affection his troops nicknamed him "Fighting Joe".

Military History (cont.)

Spanish-American War

On February 15, 1898, the unexplained explosion and destruction of the United States Battleship Maine in Havana Harbor increased the unrest in the United States which had been caused by indignation over Spanish treatment of the Cubans and by the desire of American financiers to terminate perennial disturbances in the island. Empowered by Congress to resort to arms, if necessary, to force Spain to relinquish its authority in Cuba immediately, President McKinley called for volunteers on April 25, 1898, and war began amid great enthusiasm.

William H. Murphy, a resident of Hadley since 1913, was then a freshman in the Turners Falls High School. Motivated by patriotism and desire for adventure he enlisted in Company L, Second Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers in Greenfield. His unit was engaged in three major battles of the war, at La Guasima, El Caney, and San Juan Hill on the flank of T. R. Roosevelt's Rough Riders. In addition to the normal hardships, the troops had to cope with bad and inadequate rations, dysentery, malaria, yellow fever, vicious stinging insects, and temperatures averaging from 112 to 130 degrees in daytime. Among other exploits, Bill, upon finding a map in a shack, had the good sense to preserve and hand it to the high command, where it proved to be extremely valuable.

It was Bill's good fortune to see T. R. Roosevelt, the popular

Military History (cont.)

leader of the famous Rough Riders; General Leonard Wood, the benevolent and efficient military governor of Cuba, later Governor General of the Phillippine Islands; and the Cuban General Garcia. This great fighter for Cuban Liberty is one of the subjects of Elbert Hubbard's immortal masterpiece, "Message to Garcia".

A nephew of John Howard Jewett, author and first Hadley youth to enlist in the Civil War, and also a kinsman of General Hooker, Colonel George Allen Taylor was truly a townsman, though born in Providence, R.I., on April 23, 1879. Veteran of the Spanish-American War and World War I, he had an outstanding military record to his everlasting credit. Graduating from Brown University, he entered and remained in the service of the U. S. Army until his retirement on Dec. 31, 1932. He was the first commanding officer of Fort Kamehameha, Hawaii, later headquarters for Pearl Harbor. In France, during World War I, he served as commanding officer of the 178th Field Artillery. After the Armistice, he was in charge of supply operations in Montierchaume, France. Later, he was placed in charge of cemeteries in Northern France from Argonne to Luxembourg. During World War II I saw many cemeteries in this area, including French and English. The excellent landscaping and general appearance of ours was a source of pride to me. For meritorious service, Col. Taylor was honored by the U. S. Army, France and Poland.

Col. Taylor, often misunderstood, was a kind-hearted and charitable person. A shrewd observer of the human scene, and a man of

keen perceptions, he had the happy facility of "seeing" beneath the surface of events and human behavior. Irritations, common to all, he dismissed with a philosophical smile or chuckle.

He died on Jan. 8, 1956, and was buried with full military honors in the Old Hadley cemetery. The Old Hadley American Legion Post 271 participated.

Military History (cont.)

WORLD WAR I

On April 6, 1917, the Congress of the United States declared war on Germany. A call for men to arms was issued and our country was at once engaged with powerful enemies "to make the world safe for democracy."

Hadley people, peacefully pursuing the occupations of husbandry and trade, awoke with a shock to the knowledge that a world conflict had included them. Only four or five were veterans with battlefield experiences. A new generation was to be tested. To respond to one's country in its hour of need is an exquisitely thrilling experience; it evades description. Devotion to country, its traditions and creed, and the conviction that the cause is just, have motivated men and women in the past, and always will in the future. Here is the crux of the philosophy - for what shall I live, and for what shall I give my all, if need be.

At this time one regiment of the Massachusetts National Guard was part of punitive expeditionary force in pursuit of "Pancho" Francisco Villa, the Mexican bandit and border rustler. Frank J. Reardon, then Lieutenant, was with the famous Company I of Northampton, 104th Regiment, 26th Division (Yankee). Companies M, I, L, and K comprised the 3rd Battalion of the 104th Regiment. Hadley boys in Company I, besides Lieutenant Reardon, were Sergeant George E. Morton, Sergeant Frank E. White, Corporal George O'Hara, Corporal Maurice McHelligott, Edwin C. Pengie, and Henry T.

Schlitz; Captain T. J. Hammond of Northampton, later Major, was the Company Commander during training in Greenfield and Westfield, and most of the time in France. The 26th Division embarked in Montreal, Canada, and was among the first of the units of the American Expeditionary Force to arrive overseas. The 26th Division fought at the famous ridge, Chemin des Dames, in February and March, 1918; then from April through June in the Toul sector. After a short tour of French defensive duty at Apremont, the division was transferred to the Chateau-Thierry sector. During July the division took part in the second battle of the Marne. Some of the hardest fighting of the war was encountered in this area. For exemplary exploits during the Marne fighting, Corporal O'Hara received the following citation, signed by Major-General Clarence R. Edwards, commanding the 26th Division: "I have read with much pleasure the reports of your regimental and brigade commanders regarding your gallant conduct and devotion to duty in the field on July 18, volunteering for a hazardous mission, at great personal risk under heavy enemy fire. I have ordered your name and deed to be entered in the records of the Yankee Division." Later, Corporal O'Hara received the Silver Star medal for "gallantry in action against the enemy". Company I received special honors for its conduct in this engagement. The St. Mihiel drive took place during the last two weeks of September and from then to the time of the Armistice they took part in the gruelling fighting in the Argonne Forest.

Military History (cont.)

A large part of the time Lieutenant Beardon actually was in command of the Company because of Captain Hammond's detachment for special duty. Lieutenant Beardon was assigned to Spartansburg, S.C., to train infantry recruits. He received promotion to the rank of Captain during this assignment. Major A.G. Beckman, previously a member of Company I for twenty years in various grades, was delighted when Captain Beardon joined him at this station.

Serving in the infantry were Sergeant Kenneth Norton, 312th; Corporal James H. Russell, 325th; John Slanda, 325th; Lieutenant Herman B. Nash, 331st; John Fydenkewicz, 28th; Frank B. Norton, 58th; Paul Zuzgo, 30th; and George White of the 104th. Resident of Hadley since 1921, Joseph Wiedbala served in Company L, 104th, on the Mexican border and in France. He was awarded the Purple Heart medal and six campaign stars. Slanda, Russell and Nash saw action in Toul, St. Mihiel and Argonne.

Lieutenant Raymond B. Norton served in the 118th Field Artillery; Michael Fydenkewicz, 7th Field Artillery; Richard A. Welch, 22nd Field Artillery; and Harold Brotherton in the 335th Field Artillery. Norton attended an officers' training school at Saumur, the West Point of France, and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant. Richard A. Welch was the only army man from Hadley who died in the service.

Corporal Frank L. Hibbard and Corporal Thomas H. Hickey served in the Quartermaster Corps. Hibbard saw duty in the Toul

sector, St. Mihiel and Verdun.

Clifton Denio and Paul Smith served in the Air Corps.

Corporal George Dugan of the 35th Battalion, and James A. Welch of the 301st Battalion, served in the Engineer Corps.

Frank Dixon served with the Evacuation Hospital No. 3, while James F. Russell and Oscar Johnson were with the Veterinary Corps.

All mentioned thus far saw action in France with the American Expeditionary Forces. To complete the roster of our overseas contingent were the following: Samuel Adair of Base Hospital, Unit 102, with the Italian Army; Stephen Toole with the Canadian Forces; Sergeant S.R. Mayer-Oakes, serving in the same army in a hospital in England; and William Scanlon, as ship carpenter at a Naval Station in Ireland. Toole was seriously wounded while on duty in France.

Serving in the Navy and associated branches were the following: Ensign Clifford Christopher, U.S.S. Onward; Ensign Paul Christopher, U.S.S. Galveston; Ensign Clarence J. Gale, Naval Recruiting Station, California; Napoleon Pitcher, U.S.S. Meade; John Lehane, U.S.S. Mt. Vernon; John Wydenkewicz, U.S.S. Melente; Edmund Remo, U.S.S. Penobscot; Frederick C. Cook, Guard, Company D., Brooklyn; Donald Rice, duty on several ships; George Edwards, unassigned; Arthur C. Johnson, rifleman, U.S. Marines; Waldo Kendall, Merchant Marine Ship Charles Pratt; Donald H. Cook, Naval Aviation Corps.

There was one death among these naval men. Ensign Clarence J. Gale died of influenza.

On the honor roll are a score of man whom the Armistice found scattered throughout various camps on this side of the ocean ready to join their comrades overseas when trained and needed. They formed part of the enormous reserves, the backlog, that the fortunes and the insatiable maw of war demand. The following recital of names is in order: Joseph Bemben, Roy Phillips, Tillard S. Hibbard, Mark Grebin and George Forsythe, 36th Infantry; Clarence Scott, 212th Engineers; Joseph Bialek, Camp Upton, N.Y.; Linn Underwood, Quartermaster; Clarence A. Kendall, Medical Corps; Joseph Seltz, 209th Engineers; Henry R. Cook, Personnel; Ralph W. Smith, medics; Richard P. Thayer, Field Artillery; Gertrude S. Phillips, Nurse Corps; Carl Denio, Personnel; Lieutenant Thomas Mahony, Panama Canal; Joseph Sullivan, 33rd Infantry; Joseph Banash, medics; Peter Meihaj, Camp Hill, Va.; George H. Lester, Veterinary Corps; James O'Neil, Air Corps; and Albert Klimoski, Cavalry. John T. Callahan, Jr., Myron W. Smith, and Earl F. Lyman were attending officer training schools.

Seventy-one men and one woman were Hadley's contribution to World War I. We sympathize with the families of the two who made the supreme sacrifice yet rejoice in the knowledge that seventy returned. Only a few were injured and none suffered loss of limb or sight. Three suffered to a small extent from the effects of chemical agents (gas). Harold Brotherton died from effects of a gas attack.

Military History (cont.)

To the soldier at the front, exposed to all sorts of enemy fire, the greatest stimulant to morale is the confidence he has that the home forces are determinedly behind him. In the finest tradition and spirit since the formation of our country the Hadley home forces did their part to produce the needed food, ammunition, weapons, and hundreds of other items essential to waging war to victory. Faithful women and school children knitted sweaters, helmets and wristlets for the boys "over there". Savings in full measure were loaned to the government. Generous contributions to the Red Cross were made. When the Hadley poet, Clarence Hawkes, urged people to write letters of love and devotion, he had an insight as to their beneficial value. Letters from home have a sobering and tranquilizing effect on the older men just as much as on the younger ones. These outpourings of labor, heart, and purse manifest resolute support to the armed forces.

Armistide Day, November 11, 1918, was a perfect Indian Summer day. Those forty-five years of age and over must have a vivid memory of the excitement. Every device capable of producing noise was put into use on this memorable day. Beginning at 11:00 A.M. factory whistles, church bells, fog horns and sirens could be heard from every surrounding city and town. Pent-up feelings of anxiety gave way to feelings of relief and joy.

Military History (cont.)

War was over; an arrogant militaristic autocracy was subdued. Thepeople spontaneously displayed the fact that they were glad.

On Memorial Day, 1919, Hadley celebrated the return of her heroes from the great war. In our Hadley history this was one of our Red Letter Days. In a sense Hadley was celebrating its 260th Anniversary also. The feature of the day was a parade of decorated floats, automobiles, and large bodies of marching organizations. The parade of five divisions formed on the southern end of Middle Street. Robert J. McQueston was the chief marshal. Richard Hibbard, Roger Johnson, and Michael Kokoski were assistant marshals. The divisions moved north up Middle Street to Russell Street, then north on West Street crossing to the west side and back to Russell Street to the Town Hall. During the parade the bell at Russell School rang lustily while the marchers were loudly cheered.

First Division:

Northampton band, 20 pieces, Frank J. Lizotte leader; automobiles containing Selectmen, Chairman Cornelius Callahan, Michael Dwyer and Seymour Parker; old soldiers, Lewis West, O.W. Prouty, H. C. Russell, S. C. Cook, Thomas Jefferson Parsons.

St. John's Church choir float decorated with national colors and bunting. The members on the float were: Agnes C. Burke, Mrs. John R.

Military History (cont.)

Callahan, Mrs. Frank J. Reardon, Helen Reardon, Grace Burke, Alice Scanlon, Anna Dickey, Margaret M. Powers, Robert Burke driver. Hadley's own military company, returned soldiers.

Second Division:

Hadley Polish Society of the Holy Rosary Church, 100 men in line in uniform, float decorated with the national colors and every one of the thirty children carrying a flag. The float was drawn by two horses, with Mack Larzyniski the commander.

Third Division:

This consisted of the First Church float, decorated with the national colors and the flags of America, England, France and Italy. Marion West bore the American flag; Elizabeth Smith the English flag; Dorothy McQueston the flag of France; Ruth Smith the Italian flag. Martin Smith represented Uncle Sam and blew a bugle. The float bore the legend, "The First Church welcomes you".

Russell Street School float represented "Thrift" and was prettily decorated with flags and bunting. The scholars on the float were: Agnes Karakula, Helen Tolper, Marion Mazeski, Victoria Kremensky, Catherine Zigmont, Helen Pellissier, Mildred Pellissier, Marie S. Pellissier, Henry Litinina, Raymond Pellissier and Kenis Whittinka and Laddie Adams, who represented a bank teller.

Ross' band, J.A. Ross leader, 1[illegible] pieces; a unique and realistic float decorated in a greenish shade, was that of the Gepapemin Camp-fire Girls, representing a canoe scene on the Connecticut River, one of the girls paddling in a natural way. The members on the float

were: Helen Miller, guardian; Grace Leonard, Elinor Smith, Dorothy Horton, Helen McQueston, Eleanor Miller, Constance Hill, Elizabeth Pratt, Margaret Miller and Mildred Morton

Fourth Division:

Composed the fire wagons decorated and their drivers were: No. 1 wagon, Edward Hannigan; No. 2 wagon, Frank Corsair; No. 3 wagon, Peter Milek; No. 4 wagon, George Barlow; No. 5 wagon, James Pendergast.

Fifth Division:

North Hadley float, representing a forest scene, decorated with cedar and hemlock trees and a camp with a soldier on guard, represented by Herbert Russell, and the driver John Vollinger.

Hope Grange float, attractively decorated, with Ernest Russell, Master; the Three Graces, Mrs. Ernest Russell, Mrs. Lawrence, Miss Hazel Sargent; Mrs. E.T. Ryan, dairymaid; Lawrence Randall, farmer; and D.E. Ryan typifying the three aspects of the Order and the farmer's social activities.

The Hadley nurses were in the decorated touring car of Chester Smith, driven by Fred Little, a soldier who had been across. The car contained Mrs. Chester Smith, Mrs. Joseph Cook, Mrs. John Keefe, Mrs. George Newton, Mrs. Edmund Smith and Mrs. Harry Gaylord.

Two decorated touring cars contained members of Hadley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution who were: Mrs. Harriet Smith of Northampton; Mrs. Arthur Cook, Mrs. Rufus W. Smith, Mrs. F. H. Smith, Mrs. Franklin Heald, Mrs. Jennie Wood, Mrs. William Griswold,

Military History (cont.)

Mrs. Louis Crosier, Mrs. Elwain Smith, Mrs. Franklin Green, Mrs. Charles Green.

Members of the First Church Primary Sunday School were in the decorated car of Harry Cook. The scholars in the car were: Katherine Johnson, Miriam Pierce, Mertis Pierce, Ruth W. Smith, Roxana Christopher, Marion Searle, Wilmer Gouger and May Paterson, accompanied by Miss Marion Wood, Superintendent of the Primary Department.

The Hopkins Academy float was decorated in yellow and white, the School colors. Scholars on the float were: Julia Jekanowski and Mary Devine representing the Domestic Science Department; Eva Hickey, Art and Science Department; Charles Hickey and Howard Pellissier, Agricultural Department; Dora Montgomery holding aloft the School flag; Frank Bilski displaying the service flag of the School with 30 stars.

The finely decorated automobile of George Mentor was among the attractive features of the parade.

After the parade had disbanded the people gathered on the lawn of Hopkins Academy for the patriotic exercises led by W.J. Short of Northampton. J.P. Reed, Principal of the Academy, presided. Singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" opened the program. A brief address of welcome was given by Cornelius Callahan, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. "It was a sad day", he said, "when we were called to send you to war, and now we are glad to have you back with us. We did everything for you while you were over there and stood backing you. Now that you are at home, continue to fight

Military History (cont.)

for the right, continue to be good and upright citizens and we shall continue to love and honor you. The world loves a noble, loyal and brave man."

Then a poem, "Welcome Home", by Clarence Hawkes, was read by Florence White of North Hadley, with a fine modulation of voice and an intelligent appreciation of the sentiment. "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" was sung to the accompaniment of the band.

Dr. Frank H. Smith, our beloved physician, leader of the home front, gave the principal address, "How Hadley Won the War". He pointed out the highlights of Hadley's history and gave in detail an account of the participation of the seventy-two on the honor roll. The closing words of Dr. Smith's address are as fittingly appropriate today as they were then. "The fighting is over and the boys are home or on the way. May it come to pass that their love of country and of high ideals shall not languish but rather become a steady fire of devotion to service for the old home town. If we have become accustomed during the past two years to see every creed and race mingle in working, saving and giving for a common object, why not remember that other work will always remain, claiming a common interest on the part of all of us in Hadley. May we face the future with a determination to make Hadley a community worthy of emulation."

On the committee in charge of the celebration were: Dr. Frank H. Smith, William McGrath, Clarence Hawkes, Frank Pelissier, James P. Reed, Mrs. George Norton, Elam Allen, Henry Ryan, Clifton Johnson and Charles Abbot. Arrangements and general plan for the parade were

delegated to Mr. Hawkes.

At a banquet, held in the Town Hall, the attendance was so large that many could not be accommodated. Nothing less than turkey would do. "Nothing was too good for the boys", was the prevailing theme. Following the supper there was a concert by a town orchestra and singing by a Hadley quartet. Speakers and invited guests were: Colonel William C. Hays, Commander of the 104th Regiment; Major Thomas J. Hammond; Major A.G. Beckman, the present High Sheriff of Hampshire County and Northampton's Citizen of the Year 1958; Captain Frank J. Reardon; Cornelius Callahan, S.P. Cook, H.C. Russell; L.W. West; O.W. Prouty. Dr. Frank H. Smith was Toastmaster.

Military History (cont.)

WORLD WAR II

The global conflict lasting from 1939 to 1945, and comprising its many military engagements and related political, diplomatic and economic struggles, forms the most stupendous complex of events in the history of mankind. Before the war ended, seventy nations were involved in varying degrees.

Modern communications had brought about great inter-dependence among all nations of the world. This partially explains the shocking and stunning news the people of Hadley and the entire country heard on that never-to-be-forgotten Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7, 1941. What did we do that this had been thrust on us? Or should the question be: What did we not do? Sir Winston Churchill has said, "If all nations had made their positions crystal clear, both wars would have been avoided." What a transformation! At peace with the world in the morning, attending Church, planning our next day's affairs - - and stark uncertainty a few hours later. As a nation, lessons of history had escaped us. We were confronted by enemies on the East and West, and poorly prepared to cope with them.

In September, 1940, Congress had passed the Selective Service Act. Some 16,500,000 men were registered in accordance with the law by the end of October. Partly because of this act, about fifteen Hadley men were in the armed forces at the time of Pearl Harbor. Many men and women were to follow. Before V.E. Day (victory in Europe) May 8, 1945, and V.J. Day (victory in Japan) September 2,

Military History (cont.)

1945, Hadley people served in every theatre of war. In the Pacific, from Bataan and Corregidor to New Guinea, and then "island hopping" to Okinawa and Tokyo. In the western theatre, from the African Invasion to Sicily, Sardinia, Salerno, Anzio, Cassino and Rome. Then D-Day, June 6, 1944, the Normandy beaches, hedgerows, sunken roads, to St. Lo, Paris, Belgium, Luxembourg, to the West Wall (Siegfried Line), thru the Rhineland, over the Rhine River to meeting the Russians at the Elbe River. For being taken away from home and family, schools, jobs and careers, Hadley servicemen and women were compensated in that they had an opportunity to see and acquire knowledge at first hand of many lands and places. Is Geography a dull subject? Perhaps, in the grade schools. On the premises it is exciting.

Innumerable war experiences of Hadley persons can be narrated and the outline of a few may be proper. After resisting the Japanese for three months on the Bataan Peninsula in Southern Luzon, outnumbered by five to one, Sergeant Joseph E. Bak, a career soldier in the infantry, was taken prisoner and succumbed in a P.W.(prisoner of war) camp in the Philippines after surviving the brutally inhuman Bataan "death" march. He was the first Hadley soldier to die in the service.

Military History (cont.)

Captain Edward J. Matuszko served with the 32nd Division in the Pacific theatre. After twenty-two months duty as an artillery pilot and observer, his plane was disabled by enemy fire over enemy-held ground in northern Luzon. In the crash landing within friendly lines, he was severely injured. His ~~six~~ facial, ~~one~~ leg and ~~one~~ back wounds required a long series of surgical operations. His battery Commander, acting as observer (eyes of the artillery) on this mission did not survive the crash. Captain Matuszko was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and the Air Medal with one cluster.

Major Raymond D. Shipman, a navy airman with the Marines has seventy-seven bombing missions to his credit. A member of the V.M.S.B. 236 Squadron, a dive-bombing unit, he served in the Pacific, mostly in and around Bismark Archipelago, Admiralty and Philippine Islands. He wears the D.F.C. (Distinguished Flying Cross) with two clusters, Air Medal with nine clusters, and a navy unit citation with one cluster. Here is an outstanding military record which reflects deserved credit upon Major Shipman and Hadley. When General MacArthur kept his immortal, "I shall return" promise, it was men like Major Shipman who made it possible for him to do so.

Technical-Sergeant Charles Szafir, a navigator and bombardier, was with the 12th Air Force. He flew sixty-three bombing missions over Africa, Italy and southern France. Several of these missions

called for demolition of enemy submarine facilities in Turin, northern Italy. He wears an air medal with six clusters. Flying in an area steeped in Roman and other history afforded Sergeant Szafir many hours of fruitful meditation and unusual experience.

A few months before Pearl Harbor, Irving M. Johnson entered the naval service as Lieutenant-Commander. His vast experience and knowledge of marine activities, especially his first-hand knowledge of the geography, was volunteered to the Navy. What a ready-made contribution at such a time! During 1934 he had discovered and charted five islands, north of New Guinea, an area in which intense and bitter fighting later took place. Promoted to Commander, he was assigned to command a hydrographic survey ship in 1944-1945. Commander Johnson is a recipient of a Navy Special Service award for diving work in the South Pacific in 1942-1943. Since the war, he has resumed his around-the-world voyages and lecturing. Sailing in the old battle areas must recall rich and exciting memories.

Arthur C. Johnson, commissioned in the naval reserves in Dec. 1940, was called to active duty several months later. He taught navigation at a navy defense school in Boston. When war was declared he was placed in command of the U.S.S. Verlaine; his assignment included special investigation along the coast of Maine. For a year and a half he was the commanding officer of a large mine sweeper, the U.S.S. Merganser, at a time when the enemy was very active against east coast oil shipping. After graduating from Naval

Military History (cont.)

Mine Warfare School, seventh in a class of seventy-seven, he was assigned as Commander of Mine Sweepers, Narragansett Group, which covered the area between Cape Cod and New York. Promoted to Commander, he was assigned to staff duties as S-3 Operations Officer at Headquarters, Caribbean Zone.

Machinist Mate, 1st Class, Stanley Grozdal, crew member aboard the U.S.S. Helena, floundered in the ocean from 2:00 A.M. to daylight when his ship was sunk by enemy torpedo action in the Solomon Island area. He was picked up by a life-boat, transferred to a destroyer and then re-transferred to the troop-ship American Legion where he was welcomed aboard by Signalman 1st Class Frank Zalot, Jr. One of these men must have remarked, "What a small world."

Machinist Mate, 1st Class, Edward Forman, was killed in action aboard the Destroyer U.S.S. Drexler on May 28, 1945, in the Pacific theatre near Okinawa. His ship survived the first Kamikaze (suicide, Japanese-divine wind) hit. He was within several yards of the second hit. After the second crash, the destroyer sank in less than one minute. The casualties were 158 dead and 52 wounded. Seaman Forman had served aboard a destroyer in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea during the African and Italian invasion.

1st Lieutenant Stanley Gizinski has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "heroic achievement in combat". He also received the Purple Heart medal for leg wounds while in action in Germany.

Staff Sergeant Warren Johnson completed thirty-nine missions over Germany as tail-gunner in a B-17 bomber. He was awarded a D F C

and the President's Unit Citation with four oak-leaf clusters for gallantry in action. His father, Oscar Johnson, is a Veteran of World War I.

Sergeant Myron Muzyka, with the 8th Air Force in the E.T.O. (European Theatre of Operations) has thirty-one missions as bombardier to his credit. He was awarded the D.F.C. with one cluster, and the President's Unit Citation.

Lieutenant-Commander William E. Dwyer served with the Navy, stationed at Washington D.C., and later assigned as Naval Attache for Air to the American Legation at Melbourne, Australia.

Staff Sergeant Charles J. Mulikowski served in the E.T.O. as member of the Counter-Intelligence Corps. He was awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service. He acted as Interpreter at the juncture of the American and Russian armies at Torgau, Germany, near the Elbe River.

First Lieutenant Anthony S. Rojko, with the 20th Bomber Command in India, was among the airmen to launch the first repeated and systematic super-fortress attacks upon the Japanese homeland. He was awarded the D.F.C. and Air Medal.

Lieutenant Walter McNiff served with the Navy; he commanded a PT(pursuit) boat in the Mediterranean Sea for more than one year. These eighty-foot boats were equipped with torpedoes and a 40 mm. cannon. Capable of high speed, these boats raised havoc with larger but slower vessels.

Ensign Edward Zalot, a navy airman , aboard a plane carrier on a training mission off the eastern coast of South America, lost his life in a plane crash at sea. Ensign Zalot was 20 years of age.

Machinist Mate, First Class, Edward G. Gnatek, on the cruiser U.S.S. Columbia, relates this grim scene: "On the morning of Jan 9, 1945, the hundred or so of our various craft in Lingayan Gulf, N.W. Luzon, Philippine Islands, were attacked by about five hundred Kamikaze planes during a horrendous two hours. In addition to the number of planes that actually hit our ships and were thus destroyed, about two hundred were shot down by anti-aircraft fire from all our ships and shore batteries in the area. The U.S.S. Columbia received two hits, was severaly damaged, sustained one hundred and thirteen casualties of which sixteen were fatalities. Within my field of vision I counted thirty-six suicide crashes against our ships. It is incredible that after this massive self-sacrificing attack all our ships remained afloat except one aircraft carrier."

An attempt has been made to mention some of the novel, unusual, tragic and heroic experiences in several areas of the war. For inadvertent omissions, apologies are sincerely given. A poet tells us that uncounted billions of flowers bloom each year in resplendent beauty and intoxicating fragrance, yet unseen by so much as a single human being.

In the Lobby of the American Legion Home on Russell Street there are inscribed on a bronze plaque 541 names of men and women who served in World War I and World War II. Of this number seventy-two

Military History (cont.)

are veterans of World War I and 469 of World War II. During World War II, thirty-nine Hadley men and women were commissioned officers. The highest rank attained was that of Commander by two Hadley men, Arthur S. Johnson and Irving M. Johnson. This rank is equivalent to Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army.

The following lost their lives in military service during World War I: Richard A. Welch and Clarence J. Gale. In World War II: Frank Bak, Joseph E. Bak, Edward J. Chmura, Edward Forman, Anthony L. Gansis, William Gansis, Thomas Matusko, Edward Punska, Michael Samolewicz, George H. Scott, John A. Stanley, Louis Wojowoda, Edward Zalot, and Walter Zygmont.

To these names should be added the name of Major Frank Keefe who served with the Army Quartermaster Corps in the C.B.I. (China-Burma-India) theatre. Although he was inducted into the service from Northampton, he was a native of Hadley. While en route from Calcutta to Cairo an airplane mishap over the Mediterranean Sea was the cause of his death.

Five men were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Three men were awarded the Silver Star medal, one of these with one cluster. Fifteen men were awarded the Air Medal; some of these men received two, three, and four clusters. Sergeant Charles J. Szafir received six. Twenty-one men were awarded the Bronze Medal. Twenty-four were recipients of the Purple Heart. Major Raymond D. Shipman is the highest decorated soldier in Hadley.

Our honor roll includes nine men who served in the Merchant

Marine. Since these were employed by private shipping concerns they do not qualify for classification as war veterans, yet in most cases their duties were more hazardous than those of many in the armed services. For example, these men delivered Lend-Lease materials to Russia via the Arctic route to Murmansk. They were subjected to very intense air bombardment by the Luftwaffe.

Through the war years 1941-1945 the average population of Hadley was about 2650. Slightly more than one out of seven, then residing in Hadley, served in the armed forces. Of the 469 names listed on the plaque, 388 were residents. The national average was approximately one out of ten. As in the Revolutionary and Civil War, Hadley's contribution in manpower was proportionately greater than that of the country as a whole.

KOREAN WAR

The military struggle fought on the Korean Peninsula from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, began as a civil war between the democratic Republic of South Korea and the Communist People's Republic of North Korea. This conflict swiftly developed into a limited international war involving these and eighteen other belligerent states. Specifically, the war (excluding its civil stage) resulted from a "police action" undertaken by the United Nations against communist aggression. There were no formal declarations of war, and the U.N. action was otherwise unique in history because, despite numerous earlier provocations, neither the U.N. nor its predecessor, the League of Nations, had heretofore employed collective military measures to repel an aggressor.

Forty-four Hadley men were in the armed forces during this conflict. Twelve of these men were veterans of World War II. Thirteen men were on Korean soil. Nine served on U.S. Naval vessels in adjacent waters. Corporal Michael J. Lesko, Jr., drove a supply truck from Pusan to Seoul. He tells of the desolation, poverty and misery of the South Koreans, especially the refugees. His compassion for the waifs in particular, is faith-restoring in the positive forces of humanity which work to solve world problems by peaceful means.

Major Donald Shipman was in 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing assigned as operations officer of an airborne Electric Countermeasures squadron at Marine Corps Air Station, Skerry Point, North Carolina.

Master Sergeant Charles Szafir was at Westover in charge of Information and Education; also at Winross Base in Michigan in charge of Personnel Services, Special Services, Library Information and Education.

EPILOGUE

The military phase of Hadley life during the past three centuries warrants the conclusion that Hadley did contribute its share and more in time of need. From 1776 to the present date Hadley has been loyal to the forms and ideals of our great country. Numerous town records attest this fact. Though a small segment of this vast and vibrant nation, Hadley has shown its determination to support the security of the whole.

In this atomic age it is imperative that ways and means be found to prevent war. The magnitude of this task is tremendous. Hadley has never hesitated to do its full part once war was joined. Certainly it is not too much to ask, indeed to demand, that Hadley contribute its resources to bring to an end this unnecessary evil. Nothing is needed but collective effort and mutual toleration. Our poverty, our restraints, our infections and indigestions, our quarrels and misunderstandings, are things controllable and removable by concerted human action. What a theatre of operation for the soldier of the present and the future. This call to duty today is more rational, more practical than any call to patriotic duty in time of war in the future, however necessary the latter may be.

A last, an exciting, perhaps fantastic, thought is that before 2009 some Hadley people may actually be stationed on the moon, Mars or a space station. Any volunteers? In all seriousness, if

Military History (cont.)

interspace warfare is inevitable, as has been predicted, Hadley people will volunteer for such duty. Life will go on and with it the history of Hadley, including the military.

Hadley people deserve their hour of relaxation and joy in 1959. This is a glorious time, full of promise and hope, for love, laughter and work. A time for thought and study, to take stock of ourselves, a time to ascertain the real, the true purpose of life and live it accordingly. A time in which Hadley can take justifiable pride in a record of growth and development, in a record of duty to man, country and God, well done.

The American Legion
OLD HADLEY POST #271
AUXILIARY

by Nellie Kielbowicz

The Auxiliary to Old Hadley Post #271 of the American Legion was organized on January 30, 1957. Officers were elected and the second Tuesday of each month chosen for regular meetings. On February 24, 1957 the following were installed by the District Auxiliary Director and her team:

President, Mrs. Margaret G. Barstow
1st Vice President, Mrs. Mary Klaus
2nd Vice President, Mrs. Agnes Baj
Secretary, Mrs. Helen Kiselewski
Treasurer, Mrs. Amelia Szafir
Chaplain, Mrs. Jean Greene
Historian, Mrs. Nellie Kielbowicz
Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Marion Pitchko
Executive Board, Mrs. Twena Fill,
Mrs. Nellie Perchak and
Miss Frances Poklewski
Mrs. Alice Waskiewicz

The American Legion Auxiliary was formed for the purpose of aiding the American Legion in carrying out the great peacetime service to America. Although often working independently on projects of its own the Auxiliary has no purposes apart from the aims of the Legion.

One of the major activities of the Auxiliary is assisting in the care and rehabilitation of disabled veterans. Eleven members of this recently organized Auxiliary have taken the orientation courses at the Veterans Hospital in Leeds, Mass. After completion of this course they are able to assist on the wards, to entertain with ward parties and

to help with the Christmas Gift Shop. They help veterans make Buddy Poppies.

Child Welfare is another part of Auxiliary work. This is especially important where veterans are concerned but not confined to them exclusively. Parties have been given at the Shriners Hospital, and clothing has been collected for Save the Children Federation. At Christmas food, clothing, and gifts were given to needy families in Hadley.

With money raised by food sales, auctions, entertainments, dances, etc. we have been able to send a girl from Hopkins Academy Junior Class to Girls State. A twenty-five dollar award has been established for the girl of the Junior class at Hopkins excelling in United States History.

The Auxiliary may participate with the Legion in Memorial exercises and military funerals. The basic principle in the program of the American Legion and the Auxiliary is the program of Americanism; to help promote peace and good will on earth.

L